THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 26. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Longham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

MEETINGS LIST.

Friday, Sept. 10th.

Tower Hill, 12.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss O'Callaghan.
Piggott St., 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Beckton Rd., 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Chesley, Mrs. Tollon.
Outside Jones' Bros., 8 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mr. Everett.
Coborn Road Station, 8 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Knapp Road, 8.45 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Obelisk, 9.15 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Custom House, 5 p.m., Miss Lynch. Miss Manicom.
Well St. and Holcroft Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Manicom, Miss Bennett.
Well St. and Morning Lane, 9 p.m., Miss Manicom, Miss Bennett.

Saturday, Sept. 11th.

Rathbone St., "Whitehouse," 8 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
"Boleyn," 9 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Clock Tower, Burdett Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Smith.
Salmon Lane, 4 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Smith.
Morpeth Street, 8 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Bennett.
"Salmon and Ball," 9 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Bennett.

Sunday, Sept. 12th.

"Salmon and Ball," 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Bennett.
Morpeth Street, 12 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Bennett.
Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Manicom.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Mrs. Walshe; Chair.: Mrs. Drake. Music.

Monday, Sept. 13th.

Morning Lane and Mare St., 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Everett.
Median Road, 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Everett.
"Abbey Arms," 8 p.m., Miss Lynch.
"Peacock," 9 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Dock Gates, 7 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Manicom.
Sturry Street, 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Manicom.
Orwell Road, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Bennett.

Tuesday, Sept. 14th.

Coborn Rd. Station, 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Clock Tower, Burdett Rd., 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mrs. Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Tollon.
175 Dalston Lane, 3 p.m., Mrs. Gow, Miss Manicom.
Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. McLeod, Miss Beamish.
Waterloo Printing Works, 1 p.m., Miss Lynch.
West India Dock, 5 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.
Osborne St. and Whitechapel Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Lynch and others.

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Mothers and Children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at :—

400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town, Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m.

DOWN WITH SWEATING!

If a woman does a man's job she must have a man's pay!

DOWN WITH HIGH PRICES AND BIG PROFITS!

VOTES FOR WORKING WOMEN.

Great JOINT DEMONSTRATION

OF

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes, United Suffragists, Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, Women Writers' Suffrage League, Herald League, B.S.P., The Dockers' Union, and branches of the I.L.P., Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists, Electrical Trade Union, National Union of Railwaymen, and others.

AT THE

OPERA HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.,

Sunday, September 19th.

Doors open 7 p.m. **ADMISSION FREE.**

Come in your thousands and send the Government a Budget message!

SCHOOL CHILDREN FETCHING BABIES' MILK.
OUR POPLAR CENTRE.

NATIONAL REGISTER.

Mrs. Annie Wren Hutty, of Newcastle, was charged with refusing to fill in her registration form. Her objection was based on her assumption that the National Register foreshadowed conscription, and that as she had "No Vote" she was therefore "Not a citizen."

She was fined £1 for neglecting to fill up the form, and another £1 for refusing to do so. Mrs. Hutty absolutely refused to pay.

Mrs. Hutty is a member of the "Women's Union for Peace." One of her fellow members has since paid her fines. Those who have refused to pay have gone scot-free!

At Chester, Fredk. G. Higgs was sentenced to pay a fine of £3, or to 28 days' imprisonment, for refusing to fill up the National Registration Form. His objections were based on religious grounds.

He refused to pay the fine, but would go to prison.

IMPORTANT!

We live in strange times when difficulties in securing halls arise from all sorts of unexpected quarters. But at last we have secured the London Opera House for Sunday, September 19th. The notice is short for organising a Meeting to fill so large a hall, but that only means that we must work the harder!

Members and friends should call at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, or at 20 Railway Street, Poplar, where work of all kinds is waiting for them to do.

Everyone is wanted and everyone will be welcome.

In Germany, an organisation, on the lines of a compulsory syndicate, has been given the sole control of the production and sale of coal and lignite.

The question of raising or reducing prices must be agreed to by the Government.

Provided the Government keeps prices reasonable, this seems a very good plan.

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

BRISTOL, 1915.

We believe that no one who attends the Trade Union Congress for the first time can fail to be disappointed.

The resolutions are so extraordinarily miscellaneous—so large a proportion of them deal with technical matters affecting some particular trade; the ventilation is so bad; and there is such a perpetual buzz of private conversation, making it difficult to hear what is being said, that one becomes bored, in spite of all the will in the world to remain interested.

The speeches are short, being limited to ten minutes for the mover, seven for the seconder, and five for other speakers. The President rings his bell once when the speaker has a minute left, twice when there is half a minute, and perpetually when the time is up. When speakers do not obey the bell, the delegates begin to cry out to drown their voices. Things do not often go so far as this, but many of the speakers are called up by the bell.

Only occasionally does a speaker secure the entire ear of the conference, so that the 607 delegates become a concrete audience.

Mr. Bramley, on behalf of the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades' Association, moved for the preparation of a new workers' charter, to be a basis of discussion at branches, a test submitted to Parliamentary candidates—a rallying cry at election times. He wanted to see it established that a trade unionist, who voted against the charter, should be held to be as much a blackleg as one who had betrayed his fellow trade unionists in a strike.

This resolution showed that there is a feeling in some quarters that the Trade Union movement is lacking in a central political purpose, but the resolution fell to the ground unseconded, and there was no discussion upon it.

Conscription, the entrance of women into work hitherto done by men, food prices, and the question of craft unions *versus* industrial unions, were amongst the questions likely to secure general attention, but sometimes a trivial little incident arouses unexpected interest.

Such an incident occurred when Mr. Wade, representing the Domestic Workers' Union of Great Britain, got up to move that his Union is "the only existing Trade Union for Domestics," and that, therefore, "all affiliated societies shall for the future refuse to enrol for Trade Union purposes domestics who are not members of the Domestic Workers' Union."

That the Domestic Workers' delegate should be a man seemed strange indeed, and when this man got up to move the resolution, he spoke so softly that he could not be heard, except by those who sat in the next two or three rows.

People cried out to him to speak up, but he did not seem able to understand that he was only murmuring. At last his neighbours insisted upon his going up to the Press table, from which he shouted in a high pitched ringing voice that everyone could hear. The Conference laughed at the contrast between this and his previous attempt. He then said that his Union had been working for five years, and out of 2½ million domestic servants had secured 300 members. The Conference stopped him again and again by its laughter when he said that other Unions persisted in enrolling those who ought to be members of the Domestic Workers' Union, and that after an experience of 25 years in the Trade

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Sunday Meetings,
SEPTEMBER 12th.

HYDE PARK, 3 p.m.
Speakers:
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Miss O'CALLAGHAN.

VICTORIA PARK, 3.30,
Mrs. BOUVIER,
Miss MANICOM.

POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL,
20 Railway Street,
8 p.m.
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Mrs. DRAKE.

MUSIC.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.
Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.

AGENTS:
INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross, W.C.; CITY AND SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.
Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 6s. 6d.

Vol. II. No. 26—Sat., Sept. 11th. 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

HOW WILL ORGANISED LABOUR SHOW ITS POWER?

Organised labour has declared against Conscription. But what will organised labour *do* if the Government takes steps to introduce it?

The recent example of the South Wales Miners' strike is before us. It shows, if any showing were needed, that conscription cannot be introduced if the forces of organised labour will oppose it. For it was the workers in one trade alone, in one district of the country, who opposed the Government in the South Wales coal strike. Yet the miners were able to set the Munitions Act at defiance.

The resolution carried at Bristol was not a very decisive one, and the speeches of some of the delegates left many loopholes for a change of front.

Those who made these speeches, assert that they see no difference between British militarists and Prussian militarists and declare that capitalism is as cruel a master as Prussanism. They say that Lord Northcliffe and the Tory advocates of Conscription are as much to be feared as the German Army; yet they add that if the Government will but take labour into its confidence and say that Conscription is necessary they will assent to it.

Their attitude would be difficult to understand if the Government merely contained Liberal capitalists like Mr. Runciman, whose family is so much concerned in the high freight charges which are making "fairy tale profits" for the shippers. But their attitude is altogether incomprehensible now that the Government is a coalition of Tories as well as Liberals, for one cannot even explain it on the theory, that they still imagine that there is any difference between a Liberal and Tory profiteer.

How far the delegates who indicated that they would assent to anything that the Government may propose, are speaking for the Trade Union movement as a whole we do not know.

But it is not only in regard to Conscription that organised labour, if it would, might show its power. The rising food prices; the sweating of women and their substitution, at reduced wages, for men in fairly well-paid trades; the growth of coercion under the Munitions Act, and the piling up of enormous war profits and war expenses, for which the workers must one day pay, are all matters on which organised labour might cry "check-mate" now, if it would.

Mr. Lloyd George's telegram to the President of the Trade Union Congress in regard to the profits of munition firms is an insult to the intelligence of the people, for whom it was intended. He said:—

"I have already, under the Munitions Act, placed 714 firms under control. That includes the bulk of the important firms in this kingdom engaged wholly, or mainly in manufacturing munitions of war. In every case the profits are limited in accordance with the terms of the Munitions Act, so that the benefit of any suspension of Trade Union regulations shall ensue to State and not to employers. No profit-mongering is possible in these works."

No profit-mongering possible! And this Lloyd George is one whose word the country is supposed to trust.

No profit-mongering possible! And yet these munition makers are allowed by the Munitions Act to make *20 per cent. more profit than they made on the same output* in one of the best years they ever had!

And beside all this the Government has set up a special committee to enable the munition manufacturer to evade the Munitions Act, and make more than the Act allows!

Who can rely on Mr. Lloyd George's word? Certainly women cannot. What has become of his promise that women shall have equal pay with the men whom they replace?

What has become of his promise that the Government will see that there shall be no sweating of women in the controlled workshops?

Where is his promised fair minimum wage?

We women must realise that neither Lloyd George nor the Government as a whole will help us.

We must go out and organise steadily and doggedly, for the industrial and political struggle, expecting nothing until we are strong enough to get what we need by our own efforts.

But the men are not all organised either and we can help each other in many ways.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Messrs. Crompton & Co., Ltd., have reported their net profit for the present year as £26,459, as compared with £13,550 last year. Mr. C. F. Tufnell, who presided at the shareholders' meeting, stated that these increased profits were not due to the War. But the figures speak for themselves!

The Great Joint Demonstration in the
London Opera House
SUNDAY, SEPT. 19th,
is most important in view of the
Forthcoming Budget.

Send a subscription to help to pay the rent of the Hall.

DREADNOUGHT on sale at Bristol. Hodgson, Victoria Street (near Station); also at Flynns.

Six employees of Messrs. Cammell, Laird and Co., Liverpool, were fined 20s. each for refusing to work overtime.

An employee brought a complaint against the firm for refusing a certificate, but the Court *dismissed* this charge!

Where is our much bossted democratic Government?

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 8 to 10 p.m., Wednesdays.

Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Mondays and Fridays 8 to 10. p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

We are very strongly opposed to the view that there is little for Members of Parliament to do at this juncture. The Government is exercising greater powers over the people at this juncture than ever before. In collecting information, remedying abuses and injustices, and preparing practical schemes for improvement, Members of Parliament ought to be busy every hour in the day, as we ourselves are.

The Government is perpetually setting up committees for dealing with this matter and that. Members of Parliament should serve on these committees.

Members of Parliament have been elected to represent the interests of the people of the country, and, therefore, they are pre-eminently the persons who should be chosen to sit upon the committees set up for dealing with national affairs. The weakness of their position is that they represent men only and not all the women of the country, but that is a matter that can be remedied as soon as the people insist that it shall be done.

It is also true that many M.P.s are mere windbags, but there surely must be some who have brains amongst the whole 670 of them. And, moreover, can we be sure that the unrepresentative people, whom the Government is choosing to sit upon the committees, are not still more incompetent windbags?

After all, the Members of Parliament would be responsible to their constituents for anything that they might do on the committees, but the people whom the Government are choosing will be responsible to no one but the Government, and, quite apart from other considerations, it is not possible for the Government to find time to supervise all that they do.

The Government appears to forget that our Constitution is supposed to be formed on the principle of representative Government.

We should like to see an Act passed that no Member of Parliament or member of a Government committee may trade with the Government. This is much needed.

It is of urgent importance that women should be given the Vote, in order that women may have a share in controlling Members of Parliament, and may take their part in representative Government.

A Departmental Committee is engaged in revising the Poor Law Orders, dealing, amongst other things, with the duties of Relieving Officers; that four of the members of this Committee are: Sir C. B. Provës, Sir S. Davy, Mr. T. W. Jewel, and Mr. T. Smith, who were members of a Committee responsible for the Draft Relief Regulation Order of 1913, which dealt so harshly and unjustly with poor people that they had to be greatly modified. Mr. Anderson urged that representatives of working people should be added to the present Departmental Committee, but Mr. Long refused.

We must again protest against the non-representative character of the Committees which the Government is now setting up almost daily, and which are given great power in moulding the laws and regulations under which we live.

Mrs. Charlotte Mary Vesey Steiler, of Dulwich, the late Lord Kelvin's niece, was charged with failing to register as an alien enemy, and with giving false information as to her nationality.

Mrs. Steiler stated that it was eleven years since her husband, a German, left her. Since she was of English parentage it never occurred to her that she was *anything else* than English herself. She has many relatives fighting in the British Army. Mrs. Steiler was fined 10s. for neglecting to register and £1 for making a false statement.

At Hackney, on Sept. 4th, an inquest was held on a brick-layer's labourer, named John Euesden, who committed suicide.

It was stated that he applied for work at Woolwich Arsenal, but was kept waiting about all day, and then told that there was no work for him for lack of material.

The coroner said this was the second inquest he had held within two weeks on men who had failed to get work at Woolwich.

Yet the Government begs for men, and when they offer their services there is nothing for them to do! An explanation is wanted.

A POUND A WEEK.

During the great pressure of unemployment amongst of women which followed the outbreak of War, work-rooms were opened in connection with the Queen Mary Fund for Unemployed Women, and by a variety of other organisations.

The wage for the unemployed women in the Queen Mary Work-rooms was fixed by the Government, in conjunction with an advisory committee, of which Miss Mary Macarthur was Hon. Sec.

The wage was fixed at 3d. an hour for adult women, with a maximum of 10s. a week. For girls under 18, the maximum wage was 5s.

Most of the other relief work-rooms followed the lead of the Queen Mary Fund, though many of the work-rooms were making goods to sell.

The E.L.F.S. was firmly opposed to fixing 10s. as a wage for an adult woman, even when engaged on relief work, and we not only set the example of opening relief work-rooms, where we paid £1 a week, but we petitioned the Queen to have the wage paid in the work-rooms called by her name raised to £1.

We did not succeed in getting the wages raised to £1 in the Queen's Workrooms, but our agitation bore fruit, as was shown when the Caxton Hall conference of trade unions and women's organisations met on April 16th. The official resolution stated that "adequate training with maintenance shall be provided for suitable women whom it is proposed to place in employment." We secured the insertion of words to provide that the maintenance "shall not in any case be less than the value of £1 a week."

But in the earlier resolutions, though we fought strenuously, we lost our amendments by narrow majorities, through the opposition of the platform. These amendments were to demand, (1) to insert the important words, "whether by time or piece," into the resolution demanding equal pay for women with men"; (2) to add to the resolution demanding that women should not be employed at less than an adequate living wage, a proviso that the wage should be in no case less than the Trade Union rate of wages for the unskilled man labourer for the district, however unskilled the work might be.

Since the days when we began the agitation for a £1 a week for the women in the Queen's workrooms, the £1 a week has appealed to the Manchester Women's War Interests Committee as a suitable minimum wage for women, and they are urging that it should be established as a minimum wage for women munition makers over 18 years of age.

We consider that for this purpose the £1 a week minimum is not adequate. In the first place we do not know how long the working week is to be. Is it to be a 48-hour week? If so, the pay works out at 5d. an hour. The Trade Union wage of the unskilled man labourer is in many districts 7d. Why should a woman ask less? Moreover, many of the women are replacing skilled, not unskilled men.

We learn that on September 8th a deputation of Engineers waited on Dr. Addison to ask for a minimum wage of £1 a week for the women in engineering shops, and that a prominent official of the National Federation of Women Workers, and the Women's Trade Union League, went with them to demand a similar minimum. We regret that the demand is not a bigger one, but we are glad to know that the officials of the National Federation of Women Workers and the Women's Trade Union League are beginning to recognise the need to press for a higher minimum than the 14s. or 15s. fixed by the various Wages Boards!

The "EMILY DAVISON" LODGE.
WILL BE FORMERLY OPENED ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th,
At 8 p.m., when
Mrs. F. E. SMITH
WILL SPEAK ON
"THE LIFE & WORK OF EMILY DAVISON"
(Considered Astrologically).

144 High Holborn
(entrance at back in Bury St.),
Admission Free. London, W.C.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF RIGHTS FOR SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES AND RELATIVES!

NEGLECT of DISABLED SOLDIERS

J.S., an old soldier who fought through the Boer War, re-enlisted last year, but, in December, was discharged as medically unfit, suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, contracted through sleeping under canvas. He was incapable of working, having lost the use of his hands. He had five dependent children, the youngest a baby of ten months. Mrs. S. applied for help from the National Relief Fund, but though she was several times promised that the case would be inquired into, nothing further was heard of the matter. Some inadequate and intermittent help was received from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association.

On March 22nd, when we heard of the case, we applied to Chelsea Hospital for a pension for J.S., and on April 9th, the secretary wrote saying that a pension of 1s. 6d. a day, for one year conditional, had been granted to him, with arrears from December.

We wrote back stating that under the recommendations of the Select Committee, J.S., being totally disabled, was entitled to 25s. on his own account, and 10s. for his five children.

The secretary replied that 1s. 6d. a day was the highest rate under the then regulations, the recommendations of the Select Committee not having come into force.

As soon as the new regulations were adopted, we wrote again, and eventually, on July 15th, Chelsea Hospital agreed that the pension should be increased to 18s. 9d. a week, and 10s. for the children (29s. 9d. in all) for 12 months conditional, from March 15th.

We still protested that J.S. should have 25s. instead of 18s. 9d., and shall continue to do so.

On July 15th, a distracted wife came to us saying that her husband had returned from the front wounded and paralysed in both arms. He had been discharged as unfit for further military service, and his pay had then ceased. The wife's separation allowance had also ceased on June 14th. The man was quite helpless, and unable even to feed himself, and was suffering such acute pain that his wife could hardly leave his side. She was therefore unable to earn anything.

We at once wrote both to Chelsea Hospital and the War Office, and received a reply from the former on July 20th, and from the latter on July 26th, stating that the soldier should have a pension of 25s. a week for 12 months conditional; arrears to be paid from June 15th. The money came to hand within a few days.

It is extraordinary that any soldier should have been turned off in such a condition, without even being told that he was entitled to a pension, and how to apply for it; but unfortunately this appears to be the general rule.

Lance-corporal —— of the —— regiment became seriously ill through exposure during training, and was discharged as unfit for service. He grew rapidly worse, and his doctor reported that there was no chance of his recovery. He was allowed a pension of 14s. a week for himself, and his wife and child. He needed the constant attention of his wife, so she was unable to earn anything on her own account. Expensive nourishment and medicines were ordered for him, and in order that he might have everything possible to alleviate his suffering, his wife and child went short of food, and the furniture was gradually sold, until, at his death, there was nothing left but a table and a bed. The child had also become ill meanwhile, and had been taken to the hospital.

On July 17th, this case came to our knowledge. We at once wrote to Chelsea Hospital asking for the full pension of 25s. a week, and an allowance for the child, and explaining that the man was dying. On July 21st, the secretary of Chelsea Hospital wrote saying that, in reply to our application, the commissioners of the Hospital would increase the pension from 14s. to 20s., the increase to date from March 1st., so that there would be some arrears of payment to come. The commissioners also promised to consider whether a higher rate of pension might be granted, as a result of a medical examination.

We at once wrote to Mrs. ——, telling her of this letter, and warning her to expect a medical visit.

On August 8th, we received another letter from Chelsea Hospital, saying that the pension was to be increased to 25s. a week, from September 8th, and that an allowance of 2s. 6d. a week was to be made to the child, dating from March 1st.

We wrote to Mrs. ——, telling her of this, and saying that we hoped she had had the arrears paid to her, and that the new allowance was coming each week.

Poor Mrs. —— waited from day to day, expecting the increased allowance, but did not let us know that it had not come until September 3rd, when she came in to tell us that her husband was dead. We were filled with consternation when we learnt of the shameful way in which the authorities had neglected these poor people.

Such a case shows how necessary it is that the League of Rights members should frequently visit any of their comrades who may be in trouble. Mrs. —— had not joined the League, or met any of the members, or, no doubt, they would have kept in touch with her. But each branch of the League should form a visiting committee, in order that the secretary may send them the names of people who ought to be called on.

Delayed Separation Allowance.

A dock labourer, who had joined the R.F.A. on September 1st, 1914, married on January 10th, and allotted his wife 3s. 6d. But, though all the necessary papers were filled in, and his wife wrote four times for the money, she had received neither separation allowance nor allotment when she came to us on April 21st. We wrote at once, both to the War Office and the Pay-Master, and as a result the draft book and ring papers were issued on April 23rd.

Sailors need to buy many articles of clothing not supplied by the Admiralty, especially when they are serving in the cold North Sea. The sailor's wife usually buys many things for her husband out of her separation allowance. One woman, whose case we are trying to get put right, received as allotment and separation allowance of 29s. 6d. She had made many sacrifices to buy what her husband needed out of her weekly money. Then in the summer her husband's boat was blown up, and he lost everything but the clothes he was wearing, and his wife had to start to fit him out again. She had to do more than would otherwise have been the case, because last January her husband's own pay ceased, as did that of other men on the same ship; they could not learn why. Then the pay-master wrote to the wife and told her that she was "in debt to the Crown," and that her allowance would be reduced. She asked how she had got into debt, and was told that her husband had reduced his allotment to her from 11s. to 6s. a week, and that as her allowance had been paid as usual for some months after he had done this, she had been overpaid.

But the husband has not reduced his allotment. The only thing that he knows about the affair is that he has received not a penny of pay since January!

A School Girl's Pay.

On March 18th, a soldier's wife complained to us that she was refused an allowance for her daughter, aged 17, who was a student at Pitman's School. We at once took the matter up with the authorities, who appeared to be ignorant of their own regulations, which clearly entitled this girl to an allowance. On April 15th, after several letters had passed, we received a letter from the Pay-Master stating that the allowance would be paid.

On May 8th we heard from the mother that the money had not yet come through. We complained very seriously to headquarters, and on May 13th received a letter stating that a money order for the allowance, with arrears, had been sent off, and a letter from the mother advised us that the money was received next day.

"Unmarried Wives."

On June 29th, it came to our notice that a woman, who for eleven years had lived as the "unmarried wife" of a soldier, had gone into the workhouse destitute, because she had not known that she was entitled to separation allowance.

According to a rule lately made by the War Office, no claim for separation allowance could be made after June 30th. We, therefore, wrote both to the woman and the man advising them to apply at once; but, fearing that their letters would not get through in time, we wrote also to the Pay-Master and the War Office explaining the circumstances.

The War Office replied that our letter should be taken as an application within the meaning of the Army Order. But, later, we heard from the Territorial Force Association that the soldier had "no wish to make an allotment."

A day or two afterwards the woman came out of the Workhouse to see us. She cried bitterly when she heard of the letter we had received. She could not write, but we got her to dictate a letter to the soldier, and to take this with her to the Territorial Headquarters. As a result she got her separation allowance. We have not heard whether the man changed his mind, or a mistake had been made by the authorities.

In another case an unmarried wife got no separation allowance from May 19th, when the soldier left home, till July 24th, when the woman came to us for advice. We were able to secure the allowance for her on July 27th, just in time to prevent her being evicted for non-payment of rent.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Mothers.

A sailor's mother wrote to us from Manchester. Her son allowed her 4s. a week. The Admiralty added 6d. a week. Her husband was a chronic invalid, and she had four children, whose ages ranged from 15 months to eleven years. The son who had joined the Navy was her only support. Just before he enlisted he had been giving her 10s. a week, but he had been working only half time then, and as a rule had given his mother £1 a week. The woman had earned about 9s. a week herself, but her husband had become very ill and she had been obliged to stay at home to look after him.

The report of the Select Committee on Naval and Military Pensions and Allowances gives power to the authorities in special cases, to give the parent the same separation allowance as a wife, and the dependent brothers and sisters the same allowances as sons and daughters. In such sad cases as this we have invariably urged that this procedure should be adopted, but in no case that we know of has so much been given.

In this particular case we wrote both to the paymaster and the Admiralty, and, after much argument, secured first 9s. 9d. and then 12s. 6d. a week for the mother.

On May 31st a soldier wrote complaining that £1 0s. 2d. had been unjustly stopped from his mother's pay. The paymaster had written three letters attempting to prove that the mother had been overpaid. On June 5th we secured an admission that the soldier and his mother were right in their calculations, and the mother got her money back.

A Mother Not Her Child's Parent!

Mrs. P. is an old lady of 72. Her husband left her to go to his work one morning in 1873, and was never seen or heard of again. After several years Mrs. P. took to calling herself a widow, and considered herself as such. She had a great struggle to bring up her two little boys and girl. Eventually her elder son and daughter married, and Mrs. P. lived with her younger son, who enlisted when war broke out. Mrs. P. ceased to hear from her son, and growing anxious about him, she went to the War Office several times to enquire after him. In course of conversation she told the story of her husband's disappearance to one of the officials. She was then accused of having falsely represented herself to be a widow, and when it was found that her son had been killed she was told that she could not have his badge and belt and other little things that belonged to him and the arrears of pay that were due to him. "These," said the War Office, "must be kept for his father," who disappeared in 1873, when the dead son had been a little baby, for in Great Britain a married mother, unless she be a widow, is not legally the parent of her child.

Neither the evidence of people who had known Mrs. P. for 20 and 30 years, nor any appeal either to justice or commonsense appeared capable of moving the authorities. But at last the War Office agreed that it would hand over the son's effects to Mrs. P., after it had advertised for her husband for a year. We then said that if the War Office would hand her son's effects over to Mrs. P. at once, we would enter into a guarantee with her to return them to the father, should he appear to claim them within 12 months.

The War Office agreed to accept this guarantee, but pointed out that, whilst a father inherits the whole estate of a dead child, the mother who may inherit, after the father's death, must share with his brothers and sisters. Thus Mrs. P. could only have one-third of the arrears of pay due to her son, the remaining two-thirds must be divided between her son and daughter. We therefore asked the son and daughter whether they would be willing to hand the money over to their mother, and advised them to make the same guarantees that we and their mother had made to secure the money. This they agreed to do.

But meanwhile the allowance which the old lady had received from the War Office on her son's behalf ceased and has not re-commenced up to date.

"The most terrible tragedy of the battlefield," said a British officer, "is to hear the lads of 17 and 18, and even younger, in their dying moments, utter the last cry for their mothers. They may say 'mother,' or 'mutter,' or 'mère,' but in their agony they all call for the one who gave them birth."

Women the world over should feel that cry echo in their hearts as a call to them to secure for the mothers of men a vote in the councils of the nations.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL in the American *Woman's Journal*.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

EAST LONDON BRANCHES.

BOW BRANCH meets at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. M. Lansbury.

BROMLEY BRANCH meets at 53 St. Leonard's St., 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. McCheyne.

POPLAR BRANCH meets at 20 Railway St., 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Drake.

WEST HAM BRANCH meets at 55 Fife Rd., 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Millo.

EAST HAM BRANCH meets at Essex Hall, Wakefield St., 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Thompson.

WALTHAMSTOW BRANCH meets at William Morris Hall, 3 p.m., every Thursday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Bush.

Write to us for the address of the nearest Branch Secretary.

A SOLDIER'S STORY.

He was an Army driver, and one night in October was ordered by his superior officer to arrest another soldier. Later, the same night, the soldier who had been arrested, threw a glass at the driver and seriously damaged his eye. The driver was carried unconscious to the hospital and remained there for 18 days, a period for which up to the beginning of June, he had not had any pay. He was sent from the hospital back to his regiment, and from there transferred to another place, from which he was given a week-end pass home, where his eye became very bad again. He wrote to his regiment to say this, and received a letter on March 13th, ordering him to report himself to the nearest military hospital. He went to the London Hospital and became an out-patient there, living at home. His pay now came through again, until March 27th, when it suddenly ceased.

On April 13th, the officials of the London Hospital wrote by mistake to the commanding officer at Woolwich to say that the man was discharged from hospital, though he was still attending as an out-patient, as he had been all along. His superior officer then communicated with the police station nearest his home, and as a result, he was arrested as a deserter and taken to another police station where he was kept two days and one night. He was then taken back to his regiment by a military escort of two on May 17th.

On inquiring into the matter, the commanding officer found him innocent of being absent without leave and sent him to a military hospital for eye treatment. The doctor at this hospital ordered him back to the London Hospital on Tuesday, May 11th. On May 8th he was given 4s. in pay, and on May 20th he received 19s. 6d. In June he was still attending the London Hospital as an out-patient and living at home, and there is the prospect of his losing his eye. His wife had two children and has lately been confined, and they find it very difficult to live on her separation allowance of 24s. 6d., and the 23s. 6d. which, as explained, was all that was paid to him in more than three months. When June was well in, he was still pressing in vain for his wages.

It seems to us that he is entitled to a great deal of sympathy and some compensation for the way in which he has been treated.

Mr. Forster, Financial Secretary to the War Office, stated that separation allowances in the German army are:—

For a wife, nine marks (9s.) monthly, from May to October, and at least 12 marks (12s.) monthly for the rest of the year. The rate for each child or dependant is at least six marks (6s.) monthly. A supply of flour, potatoes, and fuel may be partly issued in lieu of the money allowance.

These are miserable pittances; but the inclusion of illegitimate children, where the paternity is established, and the possibility of a soldier's relatives becoming dependent on him after his entering the service are worth notice. We have tried in vain to get the British War Office to do justice in such cases.

If there is no Branch of the League of Rights in your District will you help to form one?

For further particulars write to Mrs. George Lansbury, 103 St. Stephen's Road, Bow; Mrs. Despard, 2 Currie Street, Nine Elms; J. Banks, 6 Campbell Road, Bow; or Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E.

GUARDIANS GRAB POOR WIDOW'S MONEY.

Mrs. Case is a widow in feeble health, living in Whitechapel. Her husband died this year as a pauper lunatic in Caterham Asylum, where he was sent by the Whitechapel Board of Guardians. She has a little girl of 12, and a boy of 17, on whose earnings of less than £1 a week, they all live.

Mrs. Case had another son, aged 23, who joined the Army in 1912. He allowed his mother 2s. a week, to which the War Office added nothing. This son was killed in December, 1914, and in January the War Office formally notified his mother that he was dead, and that she should claim his effects. She did so, but heard no more till August 6th, when she received a letter from the War Office, announcing that the arrears of pay due to her son, which was all the boy had, had been paid to the Whitechapel Guardians in part payment of their claim for her husband's maintenance and the cost of his funeral.

It then appeared that the Guardians had sent in a bill for £35 8s., and that the War Office had paid over to them £4 2s.

The Whitechapel Guardians should consider themselves disgraced by their mean action! Surely some of the Guardians will be found to insist on the money being paid back to the poor mother?

For many years Australia has allowed 5s. a week for each fatherless child, in order that its mother may care for it in the home. Because of War prices the allowance is now raised to 6s. a week, or more in specially hard circumstances.

PLAGUE SPOT in the PENSIONS BILL. CUT IT OUT!

The Naval and Military Pensions Bill if passed in its present form will give power to the Statutory Committee, "*to decide whether any pension, grant, or separation allowance to wife, widow, child, or other dependant, has, under the regulations, subject to which it was granted, become forfeited.*"

No right of appeal, no public enquiry is provided for, so that, if the Bill goes through, the soldiers' wives and parents will be left entirely at the mercy of the Statutory Committee and the Local Committees from which it will take its facts.

Soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives must organise and claim representation on these committees if ever they are formed.

But the Bill must be amended.

Join the League of Rights for Soldiers, and Sailors' wives and relatives. Write to the Hon. Sec. at 103 St. Stephen's Road, Bow, E.

In the final analysis, the burden of war falls on the women. They carry the cross, and it is only just that they should have some voice in the Government which declares a war in which they suffer.—IRVIN COBB from the American *Woman's Journal.*

"LIEU OF NOTICE."

Sydney Lyle, a mineral water manufacturer, employed girls to wash the bottles at 9s. and 10s. a week. He dismissed five of the girls and, according to a report of the case in the *Dartford Express*, he kept their last weeks' wages from them, "in lieu of notice." He struck one of the girls who had refused to go until she should get her money.

The girls refused to accept Lyle's rendering of the law and brought an action against him to force him to pay two weeks' wages—one for work done, the other in lieu of notice. The girls won the case and Lyle was also fined a guinea for the assault.

Anyone wishing for pamphlets on our work to distribute among their friends, should apply to Miss N. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., when they will be sent free.

Send a SUBSCRIPTION to our FUNDS.

FROM RUSSIA.

The *Manchester Guardian* publishes extracts from a letter of a distinguished Russian surgeon, who says:

"You ask me what effect the abolition of vodka has had on the Russian people from the military, hygienic, economic and social point of view. It has had such splendid results up to the present that we feel we can hardly prophesy what fine fruits it will bear in the future. Crime has decreased to a remarkable degree. The savings banks all report great increase in the deposits of the working people. There is beginning to be a greater demand for books and newspapers and also a demand for more intellectual amusements. Hooliganism has practically vanished. Before the abolition of vodka not a Sunday passed without cases of wounding to be treated in some of the hospitals, or of people hurt by fighting in a drunken state.

At present there is nothing of that sort. Of course we cannot expect the ideal life to spring up in a day, and it will take a long time to make sobriety a habit. . . . . .

As a doctor, I should also like to call attention to the enormous improvement which may be expected in the physique, health, and general welfare of future generations.

I shall end my letter with the wish that my country may imitate yours in many things, but in the abolition of alcohol I hope your country may imitate mine."

Such news leads us to hope that when Russia has her next revolution it will be successful.

BACK TO THE LAND!

How Women workers fare.

Miss Russell, secretary of the Queen Mary Workrooms in Cardiff, at the latter end of June resolved to go strawberry picking, because she did not want to take the responsibility of advising women to do this work without knowing something of it. She has now given the result of her experience to the *Western Mail*, as follows:—

"The absence of decent accommodation on the farms is so serious that I could not honestly ask any woman to leave her home, however humble, in order to earn the few shillings that can be made out of the work. The strawberry growers make full use of the Labour Exchanges to secure labour, and the exchanges do all they can to supply the demand. That being so, I am convinced that it is the duty of the exchanges to send their women inspectors to the strawberry-growing districts in order to report on the conditions under which the women pickers have to live during the season. If that were done, I cannot conceive of any exchange sending women, except to farms that had been approved."

"What do you complain of?" she was asked.

"The women and their sons and daughters — some of the young fellows being 16 and 17 years of age —are huddled indiscriminately in the barns and other outhouses, with absolutely no conveniences, and privacy is impossible. Each one is given a sack, which is filled with straw, and at night-time they flop down wherever they can. There is no decency possible under the system, and the result is that only women of the tramp class, and those hardened by the conditions of slumdom, go there more than one season."

"Is it not true that these women make strawberry-picking time their annual beano?"

"That may be so, and it is probably the case; but my point is that the Labour Exchanges have a duty towards the self-respecting women whom they register, and should be quite frank before drafting women to the farms. You know that a loft over a stable is not sweet, and it is the common experience to have rats scuttling over the floors. One woman this year had a big rat killed by a cat on her improvised bed. The women in the Herefordshire fields come mostly from the slums of Birmingham and Dudley. About 30 went this year from Cardiff, but they were so disgusted with the conditions under which they were expected to live and sleep that most of them returned home after a week's experience, and are not likely to go again next year."

"Could they not find lodgings in a neighbouring village?"

"Yes, they could, and that is what most of the Cardiff women were forced to do. That is what I had to do personally, for the idea of sleeping like cattle on the floor of a bare barn is too repugnant for words for any woman who values her respectability. You can take lodgings in the villages, as you suggest, but if you do that you spend more than you earn, and your labours are wasted from the financial point of view. Work on the strawberry farms can be made profitable only by submitting to the degrading conditions of accommodation provided in the farm outbuildings."

"What is the rate of pay to the women?"

"Four shillings for picking a hundredweight is about the average remuneration, spread over four crops. The first crop is splendid, the berries being large and most luscious. The second crop is also good, but in the third picking the berries have become appreciably smaller in size, whilst, at the fourth picking, they are the size of raisins. This is not bad pay, because an expert picker can earn £4 during the season, which lasts a month, but £3 for the season is about the average. In order to earn these sums the pickers have to start work at 4.30 or 5 a.m., and continue until about 6 p.m., with time off for meals. The farmer pays the railway fare to the farm, and the fare home, provided the picker remains and is a satisfactory worker throughout the season. I am told that similar conditions prevail during the hop-picking season, which is about to commence. The cry of attracting women to the land is worthy of support, but something must be done to improve the conditions of accommodation on the farms before the idea can be honestly advocated."

A CONTRAST.

A correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* gives an account of fruit picking in Worcester by women from Westfield College, London, saying:—

"After a cup of cocoa with bread and marmalade, the workers are in their orchard at 6, clad in simple costume, a silken scarf wound tightly round the head to prevent the hair catching in the tree branches, short cotton or serge skirt, covered by a large blue linen apron, doubled and tied round the waist so as to form a capacious pocket for the gathered fruit, high leggings and goloshes to guard against the heavy dews and mists of this lovely autumn."

So much for the "lady" fruit pickers, but the writer goes on lightly and apparently without realising the horror of them, to describe the conditions of the workers who, instead of fruit picking for a change, are dependent on their earnings:—

"Already the orchard, when they reach it, is a buzz of life and activity; busily at work are fathers, mothers and children, accompanied by numerous babies in prams; these are families from the neighbouring towns, who take their summer *holidays!* fruit picking. For their night abodes they make use of every possible shelter; sometimes a mere tarpaulin stretched over two trees, like a wigwam, suffices. One family was actually established in two pig-styes, thoroughly cleaned for the occasion, and presenting quite a sanitary aspect. Gypsies of course abound, and their caravans appear some of the least uncomfortable of the dwellings. The pay for fruit picking is 3d. an hour."

What a mass of sordid misery and neglect of human beings these words reveal!

No amount of cleaning can make pig-styes fit habitations for human families. It shows in what low esteem society holds our human brethren that anyone is able to think them tolerable.

But the writer is only concerned by waste of fruit!

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

(*Continued from front page, col. 4.*)

Union movement, he could say that he had never met such material as the domestic workers.

The resolution was carried in a burst of good humour, though just as it was being put Miss Mary Macarthur in the gallery rose up to protest. The Chairman said he had put the resolution, and that the matter could not be raised again.

The speaker for the domestic workers then came forward to move that the Parliamentary Committee should introduce a bill to make it compulsory for employers to give their servants a character note. He said that the domestic servant was of all persons the most dependent on a character; that she was at the mercy of unscrupulous and "cattish" employers; that someone had said that the majority of the women on the streets had been domestic servants, and that he thought the majority of those domestic servants had been unable to get work because they had been refused a character without just cause.

Mr. J. Battle, a Cotton Spinners' delegate from Bolton, got up to strongly oppose the resolution. He said that there was no proof of the last speaker's assertions, and that when employers refused their servant a character it was usually because they could not give a good character, and preferred not to give a bad one; and that character notes were a bad thing, which might be saddled on the workers in other trades, if countenance were given to them by the Congress.

Miss Mary Macarthur said that the resolution, as drafted, was not confined to domestic servants, and might apply to others. She said that there was an attempt by employers to use clearance cards, established under the Munitions Act, as character notes, and stated that a case was reported in that day's paper, in which a man, who had wished to leave his employment because he was getting a ½d. an hour less than the Trade Union rate, had been refused a clearance card. She also wanted to know whether the law of libel would be abolished when the compulsory character note was introduced.

Mr. Havelock Wilson, of the Sailors' and Firemens' Union, said that the last resolution had been carried as a joke, but that these questions were too serious for that. For 30 years the men of his organisation had been striving to free themselves from the compulsory character.

A representative of the National Union of Clerks supported the resolution. He said that clerks could not obtain situations without references from previous employers, and that by the use of the telephone and the secret report, instead of the written character note, a clerk could be prevented from obtaining employment. Where charges were put in writing, redress could be obtained through the courts.

A speaker from the platform said the employers in his trade had endeavoured to introduce compulsory character notes. If the workers had been unorganised, the employers would have succeeded, but as it was, the workers had refused to accept or present the character notes.

The resolution was lost by an overwhelming show of hands, which seemed cruelty, and yet logically to say to the poorly organised, difficultly circumstanced clerks and domestic servants: "go out and organise yourselves till you are strong enough to say: 'We will neither accept nor present a character note.'"

A hard long struggle this before the workers in whose trade the reference is an old-established and compelling custom!

The Domestic Workers had still one further resolution upon the agenda, instructing the Parliamentary committee to introduce a Bill for the inspection of private houses, where domestics are employed.

This is a measure for which the Domestic Workers' Union may probably be able to prove most urgent need, especially in the case of young servants who are but children over school age.

But the swing of the democratic pendulum that had come to him so genially a short time before, was against Mr. Wade, and the resolution was lost by a large majority. It was not really considered, and it was a pity that no genuine domestic servant was there to speak her mind, and give her experiences upon it.

As a rule the Congress is ever generously ready to pass resolutions on things that the workers in any trade want.

Other resolutions passed on the first days of the Conference, dealt with Government inspection of buildings, check-weighing, ventilating of ships' bunkers, and many technical trade matters; the progress of private Members' Bills; direct employment of mail drivers and others by Government departments; pensions for widows and fatherless children, moved by an old navvy of 75 years; State maintenance of the blind, moved by a sightless representative, who stated that at least 150 men had come back from the front totally blind, and that the average wage of a blind man was 15s. a week.

Nationalisation of Public Service was dealt with in many resolutions. The postal servants declared that it is not advantageous to the workers, unless accompanied by steadily increasing democratic control by the employees and by labour representatives in the House of Commons. The Railway Clerks asked for an Advisory Committee on which the workers should have representatives under a Minister of Railways responsible to Parliament. The Postal Servants also urged the right of Trade Union combination, and full civil liberty for all State employees.

The Agricultural Labourers carried a resolution for land nationalisation and against child labour, and one of their representatives stated that their Union knew of between 30,000 and 40,000 experienced men who were out of work.

Most of the items on the Agenda had been placed there months ago, and few of them seemed to have sprung from the immediate pressure of the circumstances of the time.

CONSCRIPTION.

The question of Conscription was the great exception. The Conscription resolution was the one emergency resolution put forward by the executive.

It ran as follows:—

> We delegates of this Conference representing nearly three million organised workers, record our hearty appreciation of the magnificent response made to the call for volunteers to fight against the tyranny of militarism.
>
> We emphatically protest against the sinister efforts of a section of the reactionary press in formulating newspaper policies for party purposes, and attempting to foist on this country Conscription, which always proves a burden to the workers, and will divide the nation at a time when absolute unanimity is essential.
>
> No reliable evidence has been produced to show that the voluntary system is not adequate to meet all the employers requirements.
>
> We believe that all the men necessary can, and will be obtained through a voluntary system properly organised, and we heartily support and will give every aid to the Government in their present efforts to secure the men necessary to prosecute the War to a successful issue.

An addendum was suggested by Mr. Will Thorne on behalf of the Gasworkers to the effect that if the Government should introduce proposals for Conscription, a special Congress should be called to decide upon ways and means to oppose them.

Mr. Harry Twist of the Manchester Miner's Federation, declared that this was unnecessary, as the workers were already determined to oppose Conscription.

Mr. Tom Shaw of the Colne Weavers, also objected to the addendum, but on the ground that he would not oppose a recommendation by the Government.

The general feeling was that the addendum should not be taken as part of the original resolution, and eventually it was withdrawn.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Seddon, the President, who padded his speech with: "The coroneted creator of Carmelite House," "the discoverer of standard bread and sweet peas" "from every part of our far-flung Empire the sons have responded to the call of the Motherland" and so on. He also said that the Government should "take organised labour into partnership, as a collective whole," and that he believed that there was "enough grit and manhood in the nation to face any eventuality, *provided we know what we are fighting for, and what we are going to defend when the War is over.*"

Stout Mr. Shaw of Colne, who had said that he would not oppose proposals by the Government, seconded the resolution. He roundly abused the Prussians for all their works, and then said that he believed there was the same class domination in both nations, and that he would as soon trust the Prussian Junker as the British Junker, or Bethmann-Hollweg as "damn the consequences Milner." No one was so violent as Mr. Shaw, either against the Germans or against Conscription.

Mr. Walkden of the Railway Clerks said that those who advocated Conscription wanted to get it on our necks for ever. They wanted by its means to get cheaper soldiers. Mr. Arthur Lee had said that British soldiers cost three times as much as German soldiers, but that he was not so much concerned to lower the wages of the soldier, as to level down the wages of the skilled artisan. If Conscription comes, said Mr. Walkden, "even if we win the war—we shall have lost."

Mr. Dubery of the Postal Worker's Association, declared that until secret diplomacy is put an end to, this country will never be safe from war and the country will be committed to an enormous army.

Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P. replied to Mr. Dubery, giving his reasons for believing in the War, then asked what the Parliamentary Committee proposed to do, if the Government should introduce Conscription. This was a question to which no specific answer was forthcoming.

A representative of the Shop Assistants said e should vote against Conscription, because he was not satisfied as to the causes of the War. The people were always deceived as to the cause of Wars. He protested that without Conscription very great pressure was brought upon young men to enlist, and that when the men got to the front there was very little difference between the conscript and the voluntary soldier.

Mr. Ben Tillett wished to tell the Government that the entire Trade Union world was at its back, but claimed to be considered. He said that when he was at the front, our men were two to one against the Germans, but whilst the Germans had one machine gun to 200 men, we had two guns to 2,000 men. German big guns had 500 shells a day, whilst some of ours had not one shell a day—and so on.

Mr. Havelock Wilson wanted certain newspaper proprietors hung to the nearest lamp post. He said that if the Government should show any signs of introducing Conscription, it would be necessary to let them know "we do not mean to have it." Merely to pass a resolution and leave it at that would not be very useful.

A youth complained that everyone who had spoken before him was over military age. He declared that the resolution was tame and unsatisfactory.

Mr. Robert Smillie of the Miner's Federation said that he should have preferred a simple Anti-Conscription resolution, as there were many things in the resolution to which he was strongly opposed. He protested against the attempt to foist the blame for the lack of ammunition upon the workers, for this was the fault of the Government organisation. There were three or four offices in London, each manned by a permanent staff, with a Cabinet Minister at the head, which were working at cross purposes with each other. They could not agree on anything. The War Office persisted in taking men from any industry, regardless of whether it interferred with the output of munitions or stopped our export trade.

The miners wanted to know what Great Britain was fighting for, and what was to happen to the men who would come home maimed.

The landlords and capitalists were afraid that this country, which is theirs, would be taken away from them. If they were as much afraid of the workers as of the Germans, we should have had better conditions for our people.

If the conference declared against Conscription, it would be the duty of organised labour to prevent it.

The hall was filled with cheers. "Bob Smillie" had swept the conference off its feet.

But what will organised labour *do* if Conscription is introduced.

There was a Press censorship over the Congress until after the Conscription resolution was disposed of, and it was said that some of the reporters had had their copy suppressed.

Only nine women were amongst the 670 delegates, which shows how pitiably unorganised women workers still are, and that where they are organised, as in the cotton trade, how little they have come to the front as yet.

(*Further account of Conference next week.*)

COERCION.

The Munitions Act.

The first sitting of the Munitions Tribunal for the Blackburn and district area was held at Blackburn on Wednesday, September 2nd.

A Preston firm complained that Ernest Wilkinson, a Burnley fitter, left work without permission. Wilkinson said he told the foreman the day before he left that he intended going away. He was at present engaged in munitions work in Blackburn. He left Preston because he could not afford to live there.

The case was adjourned for a week to allow the firm to get further information from the Ministry of Munitions.

Daniel Liptrot, an Accrington millwright, alleged that an Accrington firm unreasonably withheld permission for him to go to a munitions shop at Kent. Liptrot stated that he wanted to make the change for the benefit of his health. At Accrington he worked sometimes in hot rooms and sometimes in the open. He was troubled with neuralgia. His wages in Kent would be about £2 6s., and at Accrington they were two guineas. A representative of the Accrington firm said their works were not controlled, but they were on a sub-contract which should be finished in November. If Liptrot left them it would prevent them from fulfilling their contract. The court decided against Liptrot.

Thus, even in factories where there is no pretence of Government control, and, we suppose, no pretence of profit limitation, the workers can be coerced under the Munitions Act.

Stanley Ernest Jones, an automatic tool setter, appealed to the Metropolitan Munitions Tribunal at Caxton Hall, to request his employers for a certificate of release. His present work was ten miles distant, and he could get a better paid job nearer home.

The application was dismissed, because "other men might want to leave on the same plea."

Another man, engaged in the manufacture of searchlights, gave notice, because he was getting a farthing an hour less than Trade Union rates.

The President refused a certificate because "they could not discuss *minute* questions of wages."

Men and women see to it that you demand a living wage *before* taking on a job! Afterwards you will have no chance!

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

OBJECTS: To secure the Parliamentary Vote for every Woman over 21, and to promote the Social and Industrial Welfare of Women. Entrance Fee ... 1d. Subscription ... 1d. a Month.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Good meetings during the week. Interested audiences were addressed in Victoria Park and Hyde Park. Fifty papers were sold outside Hyde Park. The first Sunday indoor meeting was well attended, and speeches and songs were greatly appreciated. Next Sunday the meeting will be held at 20 Railway St. The London Opera House has been secured for the next Joint Demonstration on Sunday, Sept. 19th, 7.30 p.m., and it will take all our time and energy to work it up. An urgent appeal to members and friends to offer their services as speakers, chalkers, bill distributors, and paper sellers in the West, as well as in the East End. A large number of stewards, men and women, will be required, and also poster paraders for Saturdays, Sept. 11th and 18th. The parades will start from 5 Duke Street, W.C., at 3.30 p.m. Please send in your names at once. The first speakers' class and debate will be held on Friday, Sept. 17th, 8 p.m., at the Women's Hall, and will be conducted by Miss S. Pankhurst.

Dreadnought sales, week ending Sept. 4th—304. Miss O'Brien 151, Mrs. Crabb 40, Miss Bennett 20.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

On Monday evening Mrs. Bouvier had a very good meeting at the Dock Gates. On Tuesday Miss Sands was our speaker, and gave us a very interesting lecture on "Life in Germany before the War." Our thanks to Miss Sands. Our usual Wednesday evening meeting had to be abandoned owing to the weather. Miss Smyth came on Friday afternoon; subject: "The Coal Strike." Now fellow members our *Dreadnought* sale fell very low last week; do please let us all see to it that we **Increase** not **Decrease.** You know that it is "Our Paper," and by its circulation we shall become better known, and we really must all try to help in making it so. We have done somewhat better this week; we made two new members. Thanks to Mrs. Counter for help at stall. We shall be having our reopening meeting next Sunday evening when Miss S. Pankhurst and Mrs. Drake will speak. Poplar members see to it that we have a good number present!

Collected at "Green's," Cubitt Town, by Miss E. Lagsding and Miss D. Morley, 15s.; at "Green's," Blackwall, by Mrs. Tollon, 9s. 8½d.

Dreadnoughts sold during week ending Sept. 4th—185. Distributed 500.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

We should like more of our members to help with canvassing and paper distribution, because Parliament meets very shortly, and we want people to understand the vital necessity that the workers shall make a united effort for better conditions.

We want more members from the business houses in Hackney—more home-workers and more housewives. We should like more men visitors to our meetings too. Our meetings on Thursday evening are most important, and should be attended regularly by members and friends, because this is the only way by which we can know the strength of our branch.

A good crowd gathered at Lesbia Road last Monday evening.

We held a business meeting last Thursday evening, as our speaker unfortunately failed us; but as this proved of benefit to our branch it has been proposed that we should hold our meeting ourselves to discuss the business of the branch the first Thursday in the month.

September subscriptions are now due. Some members are still in arrears. Please pay as soon as possible.

Plenty of work can be had on application to the organiser.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN,
39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

A meeting for members and friends in connection with the above branch will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15th, 8.30 p.m., at 55 Cobourg Road, Old Kent Road. Will members also please do their best to show up at the Demonstration at the Opera House, on Sunday, the 19th? The secretary will be glad to receive names of new members, and subscriptions from old ones.

Poster Parades, to advertise the Demonstration at the Opera House, on Saturdays, September 11th and 18th; starting at 3.30 p.m. sharp from International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, W.C. Helpers please send in your names!

TWO-COURSE MEALS FOR 2d.

Those who already frequent our Cost-Price Restaurant at 400 Old Ford Road should tell their friends and fellow-workers about it. We supply a two-course dinner for 2d., children 1d.; 12—2 p.m. Customers say that workers do not know about our Restaurant, and that it is a great boon to get such a good, hot meal when away from home.

(Continued from front page)

Wednesday, Sept. 15th.

Chrisp St. and Charles St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Tollon.
Chrisp St., and Grundy St., 9 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Tollon.
Tower Hill, 12.30 p.m., Miss Lynch. Mrs. Bouvier.
Jones' Bros., Holloway Rd., 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Everett.
Ford Rd., 8 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Lynch.
Coborn Rd. Station, 9 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Lynch.

Thursday, Sept. 16th.

Dalston Lane, 7.30 p.m., Miss Manicom, Miss Bennett.
175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Miss Manicom and others.
53 St. Leonard's St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Tollon.
Morning Lane and Mare St., 7 p.m., Miss O'Callaghan, Miss Lynch.
Median Road, 8.30 p.m., Miss O'Callaghan, Miss Lynch.

Friday, Sept. 17th.

Beckton Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Somers, Miss Manicom.
Ordnance Road, 9 p.m., Miss Somers, Miss Manicom.
Piggott St., 8 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.
Salmon Lane, 8.45 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.
Charles St. and Exmouth St., 9.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.
Cobden Statue, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Franklin.
Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Debate, Miss S. Pankhurst.
Outside Bryant and May's, 1 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.

Saturday, Sept. 18th.

Hague St., 3 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Gibraltar Walk, 4 p.m., Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Ford Road, 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Bennett.
Obelisk, 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Bennett.

Sunday, Sept. 19th.

Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Miss Somers, Miss Manicom.
London Opera House, 7.30 p.m.

WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING TRADES.

Mr. James Haslam, in the *Millgate Monthly*, points out that even before the War the number of women employed in the manufacturing trades was gradually approaching that of the men.

Thus in the nine principal groups of manufacturing trades the census of 1911 recorded the employment of 3,413,351 men and boys, and 2,724,856 girls and women.

Mr. Haslam also quotes the following figures from the census:—

Commercial Clerks.

	Men.		Women.	
1901	307,889	dec.	55,784	inc.
1911	306,478	14%	117,057	127%

Civil Service.

	Men.		Women.	
1881	46,132	inc.	4,353	inc.
1911	136,569	36·1%	25,445	58·3%

Making of Watches, Precious Metals, etc., 1901 to 1911.
Men reduced 2·9%
Women increased 26·3%

Making of Scientific Instruments, Photographic Apparatus, etc., 1901 to 1911.
Men increased 53%
Women increased 80·1%

Making of Tin Plate Goods, 1901 to 1911.
Men decreased 10·5%
Women increased 81·6%

Making White Plated Ware, 1901 to 1911.
Men decreased 1·2%
Women increased 31·2%

Brass Founding and Finishing, 1901 to 1911.
Men decreased 12·9%
Women increased 20·3%

Buy the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT" from your Newsagent, 2s. 2d. a year, or by post from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., 4s. 4d.

BRITISH POLICE PLEASE COPY!

The chiefs of police in New York State have recently passed the following resolution:—"We, the chiefs of police of New York State, in annual convention assembled, believing in the principles of American democracy, and recognising that the women of New York State are as fit to exercise the right of Suffrage as the four million women now voting in the West, do hereby resolve that we are in favour of the passage of the Woman Suffrage amendment to the State constitution next November."

We feel sure that our own British chiefs of police will be glad when we have won the vote!

Dean Mary Stewart, of the University of Montana, one of the American States where women vote, says:—

"We have noticed a marked change in the attitude of politicians towards us since we have had the Vote. Before we were enfranchised, when we went to the State capital they paid little attention to us.

"They were perfectly courteous, but did not take us seriously. After we had gained the ballot we were received there very differently. They were just as 'chivalrous,' but respect for us had been born.

"We often hear people say that chivalry will decline when women have the ballot," Miss Stewart added, "but since I have been in the East I have not noticed that I have been given a seat in the trolley cars any more frequently than at home, nor have been treated with any more genial courtesy."

ANTI-SUFFRAGIST VIEWS.

Mrs. Archibald Colquhoun, one of the most prominent anti-suffragists, is afraid that "female labour is at a premium." She gives the following anecdote as a proof:—

Quite recently at a girls' club, where several employees of a firm now engaged on Government work were gathered, some of them announced that they were going to strike. Their wages were 4d. an hour "(oh dear, oh dear, how extravagant)" and the work unskilled. They had no grievances—merely a feeling that a strike might be worth while.

The "*girls*" of course had no grievance, but Mrs. Colquhoun would think she had a very substantial and crying grievance if she had to live on 4d. an hour (i.e. 16s. for a forty-eight hour week) even if she were not obliged to do any work for the wage.

But we should like to know how old these particular "*girls*" were. Some people have a tiresome habit of speaking patronisingly of all women factory workers as "*girls*" whatever their age may be. We should also like to know the name of the firm, for small as the wage is, it is higher than that paid to girls by any Government contractors we know.

Mrs. Colquhoun's disparaging remarks about women, her fear of them earning good wages, and her complaint that "the increase of improvident marriages" is "encouraged by separation allowances" are all typical of the state of mind of those who are opposed to the political enfranchisement of women.

MORE (P)RUSSIANISM.

Passports to proceed to the International Socialist Conference at Berne have been refused to Messrs. F. W. Jowett, M.P., J. Bruce Glazier, I.L.P., and E. C. Fairchild, B.S.P.

The National Register.

Sir,—The girl scholars in the three highest standards of the Higher Grade Schools, Bounds Green Road, Wood Green, N., have been sorting the women's registration papers alphabetically. As these papers relate to the ladies in the immediate neighbourhood, it does not seem that any steps are being taken to keep their contents secret.

T. M. EASTMAN.
158 Victoria Road, Alexandra Park, N.

The Meeting at Kingsley Hall, Bristol, addressed by Sylvia Pankhurst, Evelyn Sharp, R. L. Outhwaite, Robert Williams, W. Mellor, and George Lansbury, last Tuesday night, was a great success. The hall was crowded, and large crowds had to be turned away from the doors.

EMPTY ADVICE.

A young widow, who earns 16s. a week, has a little girl of six years, a boy of one year and nine months, and a baby boy a few days' old.

She says:—"I have no one to come and cheer me. The poor little baby I have not got any clothes for, and I feel very downhearted. I want to know if you could tell me whether I could put this little baby in a home, as I cannot afford to keep him. My wage is now 16s. Out of that I pay—

	s	d
Rent	3	6
For minding little girl ...	2	6
" " boy ...	3	0

The rest is left to live on and clothe myself, and the two children. Now there will be another baby for me to pay for out of my wage, and it means all work and starvation for me, as things are so dear now. I feel as if I were going out of my mind."

The letter is written on the back of a leaflet issued by the Local Health Department, advising mothers on the care of their children. The leaflet says:—

"The health of your baby depends upon your own, so during pregnancy keep yourself in good health.

Eat good and wholesome food at regular meals only.

Feed your baby regularly by the clock. Give the baby a warm woollen vest with long sleeves, a soft knitted or flannel binder, a long flannel nightdress, and an outer dress. Never use flannelette."

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Our stock of clothing is getting low. Will friends send us some more?

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND—Mrs. Havrerson (DREADNOUGHT Fund) 5.0.0, Miss M A. Pelly 1.0.0, Mrs. E. M. Brett (towards expenses of demonstration) 10.0, G. A. Weller, Esq. 10.0, Mr. Harbott 10.0, Collection Women's Hall, Sunday 5.5½, Miss E. K. Russell 2.6, Collections Hackney 2.6, Poplar collection 0.11, Collection in Victoria Park, Sunday 0.7½

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. O'Brien (Golagany) 3.0.0, Miss Savill 2.0.0, Toolroom, etc.—London Small Arms 1.16.0½, Per Miss Ellinor Weir 110.0, Mrs. Digby Maitland 1.0.0, A. Gliksten, Esq. (monthly) 1.1.0, Mrs. Singer (5.0 weekly) 1.0.0, Girls of Invercargill, New Zealand 1.0.0, Miss A. M. Buchan 1.0.0, Misses Mann (monthly) 1.0.0, Miss G. E. Lyle-Smyth 1.0.0, Girls of Hobart, Tasmania 10.0, Mrs. Vatcher (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Durrant (monthly) 10.0, Miss M. Renthe (4.0 monthly) 8.0, Miss E. Gore-Browne (monthly) 7.0, Mrs. E. Wheatcroft 5.0, Mrs. Shurr 5.0, Mrs. Green 5.0, Misses Bellamy & Saunderson (monthly) 5.0, Henri Steffens, Esq. 5.0, Mrs. Empson (monthly) 5.0, Employees of Messrs. Ross, Ltd., per Mrs. Young 4.6, Postman 8.0, Mrs. Gillies 4.0, Mr. Gore-Brown (monthly) 4.0, Miss Crabb (monthly) 3.6, Mr. Stiebel 3.3, collected at Creche 3.2, "Patriot" 3.0, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Clifford Ewen 3.0, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, Miss Turner 2.6, Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly) 2.6, Miss I. Jones 2.0, Julius Singer, Esq. 2.0, Mrs. King 1.6.

COLLECTIONS.—Misses E. Lagsding and D. Morley 15.0, Mrs. Mantle 10.1, Miss Lagsding 10.0, Mrs. Tollon 9.8½, Miss Chesley 3.10, Miss Manicom 2.6, Miss Bennett 0.5½.

PARCELS.—Box of peas and seakale, Mrs. S. Redmayne; Feeding bottles, tin of Allenbury's food, children's clothes, Mrs. E. Hunt; Children's clothes for Creche and toys, Mrs. Phillips; Blankets, sheets and Eiderdown for cots, dressing gown, Mrs. Herbert Cole; Clothes for Creche, Mrs. S. Spicer, Mrs. G. Young, Miss K. Pearce; Groats and prepared barley, Mrs. H. A. Burgess; Flannel nightdresses, Mrs. Gillies; Shawls, Anon; Clothes, Anon, Miss E. Canning, D. G. Lengeman, C.H.; Apples, Miss Gliksten.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

Printed by E. H. WILLIAMS (Regd. T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E. and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their Offices, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.